

# Hampden *Highlights*

Quarterly Newsletter, Town of Hampden • Issue 18, April 2010

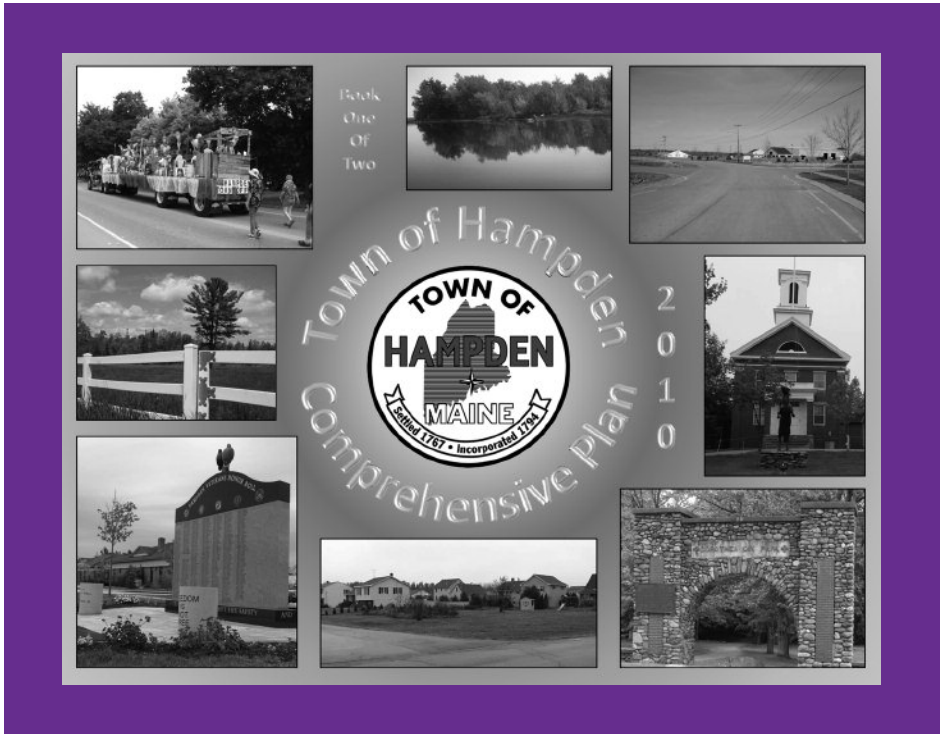
## Comprehending the Future

By Annie Gabbianelli O'Reilly, Gretchen Heldman and Dean Bennett

What has a purpose and history, a process and planning, a philosophy and vision, and goals and priorities? It's the town's Comprehensive Plan, and it's something we are all talking about whether we know it or not. It's something that requires our input because this plan addresses the preservation of open space and natural resources, provides for forestry and agriculture operations, and focuses on creating jobs and bringing businesses to town. Hampden's Comprehensive Plan is a set of detailed goals and strategies to help guide Hampden in all aspects of its development over the next decade.

### ECONOMY

Director of Community and Economic Development Dean Bennett says the plan has citizens in mind. "The 2010 Hampden Comprehensive Plan is a collection of policies and strategies designed to guide the direction of the town of Hampden over the next five to ten years. Serving as the foundation for future land regulations, resource conservation, and the utilization, expansion and investment of infrastructure, the Comprehensive Plan represents the voice of the citizens as spoken through a democratic process. The guiding principles of the plan are based on the collection and analysis of the best available data, injected with opinion, and filtered and refined through public input to ensure sound decision making, which seeks to both protect and create those things that our citizens value most about the community in which we live. The process of comprehensive planning is the most effective tool to ensure that Hampden remains the community its citizens desire rather than the one they remember."



Cover by Gretchen Heldman

### HISTORY

Comprehensive planning began in 1963 with the town's first master plan followed by other drafts in 1986 and 2001. In 2001, it was a volunteer committee that produced the town's Comprehensive Plan in accordance with the Maine Planning and Land Use Regulation Act. At that time it was mandated that all Maine cities and towns prepare a plan to manage future growth. While the comprehensive plans completed in the 1990s through early 2000 provided an excellent inventory of community resources and analysis of critical issues, they did not fully and adequately guide growth or meet other planning objectives. Due to the outdated material in the 2001 plan, its

lack of solid direction, and the fact that Hampden is a growing community, the Town Council decided in 2007 that it was time to update the plan. The Council delegated the mission of updating the plan at the time to the Community Services Committee, with facilitation services provided by the Penobscot Valley Council of Governments (PVCOG). The town also posted notices about the work on the local cable channel and town website, where the current draft and maps are available. There is now a separate Comprehensive Plan Committee, which consists of the original Community Services Committee members, including: town council members,

*continued on page 2*

Comprehensive Plan from page 1

municipal staff, members from various town standing committees, residents, and other business and community leaders. The variety of committee members provides different perspectives on Hampden’s strengths, weaknesses, and vision for the future. The plan as it reads today, is the result of over 18 months of labor. Once the Town Council endorses the plan, the implementation will be ongoing, step-by-step, similar to the process of creating the plan.

Mayor Matt Arnett claims this plan has its eye on business: “The Town Council initiated this major review in response to a request from the Citizen Economic Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee saw the need and the opportunity to expand business opportunities for current Hampden businesses and also sought to add new businesses both for the convenience of town residents and to expand the commercial tax base of the town and hopefully, thereby, reduce our reliance on residential property taxes. With Councilor Brann taking the lead, the Council quickly saw that in order to expand commercial opportunities we needed to insure a proper balance among a number of concerns: retaining and protecting the best features of our rural character, insuring the preservation of open space, encouraging residential development in harmony with open space and natural trail systems, efficient transportation, and preservation of historic structures and natural habitats. We concluded that prior to increasing commercial development we needed to do a thorough review of our Town’s Comprehensive Plan.”

TODAY’S PLAN:

**VISION:**  
Defined as the vision in the Comprehensive Plan, it lays the

foundation for the shape of Hampden in the future. A Hampden where:

- The rural landscape and small-town character of Hampden allow citizens to enjoy the natural beauty and other assets of the town.
- Residents have a variety of living choices including vibrant village neighborhoods, traditional subdivisions and rural living with extensive open or agricultural space.
- Residents have a variety of working opportunities in Hampden ranging from traditional retail sales and service to high technology manufacturing and service.
- The tax base is diverse and businesses that support the small town character and rural landscape thrive.
- Traffic is well managed, there are choices in transportation, and safe places in town for people to walk and bike.
- There is a renewed emphasis on developing the commercial and recreational use of the Penobscot riverfront.
- Wildlife and fisheries are protected and large habitat blocks are maintained.
- Taxpayers are fairly treated and town monies are wisely spent.
- Hampden has provided for the efficient and effective delivery of programs and services, which meet the needs of its citizens.

**GOALS AND PRIORITIES:**  
Encourage orderly economic and residential growth and development in appropriate areas of the town, while protecting rural character.

- Plan for, finance and develop an efficient system of facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth.
- Encourage and promote workforce-housing opportunities for all

- Hampden residents.
- Protect the town’s water resources, as well as the town’s natural, agricultural, forest, historic, and archeological resources.
  - Enhance and promote access to the town’s natural resources for public use and appropriate development.
  - Promote and protect the availability of recreational opportunities for all Hampden residents

**BREAK OUT:**  
*The Comprehensive Plan is broken out into 13 areas:*

- Employment and Economy
- Housing
- Transportation
- Recreation
- Marine resources
- Water resources
- Critical Natural Resources
- Historical and Archeological Resources
- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Public Facilities and Services
- Fiscal Capacity and Capital Investment
- Land Use

Throughout the plan, each section offers general goals and outcomes, state goals, strategies, and implementation. Each implementation item has a responsible party or parties, and a time-table for action which ranges from immediate to long term.

Town Manager Susan Lessard says the plan is solid, “The Comprehensive Plan serves as the backbone for municipal planning and ordinance development. A good plan, created with substantial public input and support, reflects the collective vision of the community and its future. Taking the time necessary to do this thoughtfully and well is time well spent.”

continued

**TIMETABLE:**  
You can hear more about the details of this plan by tuning in to Hampden Highlights News Magazine show as well as joining a series of public workshops for the presentation and discussion of plan concepts. Your input is important, so please take advantage of the solicitation period for written suggestions, whether they are changes, additions, or deletions. There will be a scheduled series of workshops before the Council approves a final draft for submission to State Planning Office. Once the State Planning Office issues its findings, the Town Council then schedules a public hearing on the plan. At the close of that hearing, the Council will vote to adopt the final plan. Workshops for the Comprehensive Plan will be held in the Community Room on the following dates:

April 26th @ 6:00 PM

May 4th @ 6:00 PM

May 13th @ 6:00 PM

May 20th @ 6:00 PM

*The town also posted notices about the work on the local cable channel and town website where the current draft and maps are available* ■

WHEELS FOR READING

By Bob O’Leary

What do reading and bicycling have in common? Incentive! That’s the idea behind Mystic Lodge #65 Hampden’s Bikes for Books Campaign. “This is a program the Grand Lodge of Maine supports and we adopted this locally,” says lodge member Richard Peer. And with Past Master, Brother Earnie Smith’s time and energy, the local lodge secured 18 bicycles to be distributed among the elementary schools and middle school in town. “There’s one for each grade and each gender,” says Peer. Reeds Brook teacher and Mystic Lodge #65 member, Bob O’Leary has been busy at work coordinating with the schools’ reading programs and assemblies. “Each school will have the autonomy to run the program as necessary for their respective age groups. Here at Reeds Brook, we will run the program based on our Accelerated Reader program which tracks each student’s reading by computer. They will receive a ticket for every 5 points that they earn in the program. The more books they read and the more points that they attain, they will have a greater chance when the ticket is drawn,” says O’Leary.

The hope is the chance to win a bike will spur kids into reading more. Peer says it’s been more than that though. “The Demolay Boys (Masonic Youth Program) put the bikes together as a joint effort and had a lot of fun doing it. This also encourages the kids to get involved in civic activities,” says Peer. ■



Photo by Bob O’Leary

**Hampden Highlights** is published quarterly by the Town of Hampden, and its success depends upon a community-wide effort. We ask you to please forward news, notes and tips about friends, neighbors, colleagues — or yourselves — to Anne Gabbianelli O’Reilly by emailing: Anne.OReilly@umit.maine.edu, drop off at the Town Office, or mailing to *Hampden Highlights*, Town Office, 106 Western Avenue, Hampden , ME, 04444. You can find *Hampden Highlights* on the Web at [www.hampdenmaine.com](http://www.hampdenmaine.com). We welcome your feedback. Edited by: Anne Gabbianelli O’Reilly and Susan Lessard • Layout and design by Val Williams





Photo by Matt Thomas

## More Than Sirens

By Annie Gabbianelli O'Reilly

It is big, red, carries 2500 gallons of water, and offers more safety features. Hampden Fire Department's new Rosenbauer Pumper/Tanker is getting a lot of attention these days. Eventually it will replace an un-baffled tanker and a 20 year old engine. "Our goal was to design a new truck that could perform the tasks of the trucks it will be replacing because fire truck design and performance have improved drastically over the years," says Public Safety Director Joe Rogers. This new apparatus meets all the new National Fire Protection Agency's standards, increasing the overall safety of operation for firefighters. "Our first priority is the safety of our firefighters, so the first month of operation will be all about pump and driver training," says Rogers. ■

## MAYOR'S MOMENT



Photo by Annie Gabbianelli O'Reilly

As I write this column in the middle of March, four initiatives of your Town Council will have a high priority in the next several months.

### The Business Expansion and Retention Program

The focus of this program is the retention of and assistance to current businesses in Hampden. Dean Bennett, our Director of Economic and Community Planning is heading this initiative. Working with Dean are two partners in Renaissance Planning Associates, Bill Najpauer and Sarah Flaks who have

been hired to assist us. By now many business owners and managers will have completed a survey created by Bill and Sarah or talked directly with them about the concerns of local businesses.

One thing I already know is that local business owners and managers need and want resident support. We hope you will buy locally, in Hampden, whenever you can. If there are additional goods or services that a local company might provide for you, we hope you will speak directly to them about your needs. If you have other suggestions, please speak to Dean Bennett at the town office (862-3034).

### Hampden Comprehensive Plan

If you haven't already attended a presentation, please do. Sessions have been planned for each voting district of the town, but you are invited to attend any of the sessions -- see the town website ([www.hampdenmaine.com](http://www.hampdenmaine.com)) or call Bob Osborne, the Town Planner for further information.

### Budget Season

Budget season has begun for the Town Council. The Council receives and thoroughly reviews a preliminary budget worked out by the Town Manager and her staff. Budget sessions and topics are listed on the Agenda section of the town website.

### Regional Planning

Hampden is well prepared for economic recovery: we have sound financial practices, stable housing, a new high school construction project, a new Rite Aid store nearing completion, prospects for development along the Penobscot River, and signs that residential construction is rebounding. We know, however, that our prosperity also depends on regional prosperity. We are active in such groups as the Bangor Region Development Association and the Bangor Area Transportation System, and we also work one-on-one with neighboring towns, such as Hermon to mutually support each other. ■

Matt Arnett, Mayor

# Calling All Hands for Street and Stream Cleanup

By Robert C. Osborne, Town Planner

Now that we have had a head start on cleaning our yards, it's time to mark May 1 on your calendar to help with this year's annual Street and Stream Cleanup from 9:00 am to noon. This event is a coordinated regional effort by the Bangor Area Storm Water Group to involve area citizens in the protection of water quality and increase awareness about the impacts of storm water pollution in our regional waterways. Last year was our fifth annual cleanup, and it was a huge success with over 75 volunteers participating in the collection of nearly 75 bags of trash near the Marina and in various parts of the Town. It would be great for even more folks to join in this year.

We need volunteers and also encourage local businesses, churches and civic organizations to consider volunteering some time and effort to the event. In order to make this year's program possible, we are also asking local businesses to partner with the Town to support the purchase of necessary supplies such as trash bags, gloves and bottled water for all participants. Financial support is also welcome. Checks should be made out to the Town of Hampden-Stream Cleanup Fund and mailed to my attention in the Town Planner Office, and you can call the office at 862-6527 to register to volunteer.

We always celebrate our hard work with a barbeque at noon the day of the event to recognize volunteers and sponsors.

This year the cleanup group will meet at the Municipal Building, 106 Western Avenue in the Community Room at 9:00 am. Many hands make light work, and all volunteers are welcome but for their safety, younger children should be accompanied by guardians. ■



Photo by Sheila Albert



## Hampden Recognized as a Maine HeartSafe Community

By Matt Thomas, Public Education Officer for the Hampden Fire Department

**H**ampden was named a Maine HeartSafe Community in February by the state recognizing ongoing efforts to educate the community about heart disease, stroke, and sudden cardiac arrest.

Early recognition of the signs and symptoms associated with sudden cardiac arrest, heart attack and stroke, immediate access to emergency services, and prompt medical treatment are all crucial for saving lives. The Maine HeartSafe Community designation promotes enhancements to each of these important links and recognizes a community's dedication to improving its "chain of survival" through partnerships with the local Emergency Medical Services program.

"Hampden Fire Department is now one of 46 local emergency medical services designated as Maine HeartSafe Communities," said Danielle Louder, CVH Specialist with the Maine CDC's Cardiovascular Health Program. "Community education to increase public recognition of heart attack and stroke symptoms and the need to call 911 immediately, early CPR, and increased access to defibrillation are components of the HeartSafe program that can make a tremendous difference in survival."

The Hampden Fire Department has continued to offer CPR/AED and first aid classes several times a year to the public. They've also provided safety presentations to groups in town including the Hampden Senior Citizens and Kiwanis Club.

It's been a lot of hard work and it's rewarding to say the state has recognized Hampden Public Safety's commitment to providing high quality services to Hampden residents. Several businesses and organizations in the community have added AEDs and we've helped train them how to use them. The community has been very supportive.

American Heart Association HeartSaver CPR/AED classes are available through a partnership between the Hampden Fire Department and MSAD #22 Adult Education. For more information or to register for a class, call 862-6422. Businesses or community organizations that would like more information about establishing an AED program can call the Hampden Fire Department at 862-4586 Ext. 208.

### Chain of Survival



Early  
Access

1

Early  
CPR

2

Early  
Defibrillation

3

Early  
Advanced Care

4



## AED Locations

Hampden Academy – Cafeteria, Gym,  
Nurse's office  
Reeds Brook - Near Gym, Second floor  
hallway  
McGraw School - Gym  
Weatherbee School - Outside the gym  
Lura E. Hoit Pool - Front desk  
Municipal Building – Council Chambers  
Edythe L. Dyer Library – Circulation Desk  
Public Works Facility – Transfer Station  
Hampden Kiwanis Civic Center

Edwards' Family Shop-N-Save - Near  
pharmacy  
Hampden Methodist Church – Downstairs  
lobby  
Church of the Open Door

*Do you know of another AED in town? Please let the Fire Department know so that they may update their list.*



Photos by Doug Kesseli

## Remembering Nate

By Annie Gabbianelli O'Reilly

**I**t was a cold Friday night in March, but the hearts of those walking in memory of Nathan Clark were warm. Wearing and carrying glow sticks, the small group walked from St. Matthew's Church parking lot to the front lawn of Hampden Academy on the one year anniversary of the tragic death of the 17 year old Hampden native. Organizers and Academy alum, Lora Reynolds and Jessica Jesiolowski, knew that Nate deserved to be remembered as the awesome guy that he was. "Maybe this walk can help us all," says Reynolds.

Carolyn Corey of Brewer reminisced about her young nephew saying, "He had a knack for making people happy and making people laugh." Dan Clark, Nate's dad who was visiting his sister out of state at the time of the walk said, "I am honored to think Nate could be remembered this way; it means a lot to myself, Ben and Jacob that Nate lives on in the hearts and minds of so many in the community." ■

## Calling all Seniors

**T**he first Monday of every month is a chance for Seniors to enjoy games, trips, meals, bingo and speakers. The gathering begins at 11:30 at the Hampden Kiwanis Hall next to Irving. Coffee and tea and new friends are provided. Call Karen at 223-3937 or Emma at 862-3126 for more information.





## LEGO CLUB AT THE LIBRARY

We've all played with LEGOs; they've been around since 1932. In fact, LEGO comes from the Danish words "play well." The founder of the company took the first two letters of the words LEG GODT (play well), put them together, and the rest is history. If you're interested in playing, well get yourself to the library at 9:30 on the second Saturdays of April, May and June. For two hours the Community Room will be transformed into a LEGO wonderland. First there's a story, this is a library after all, then everyone gets to make LEGO creations relating to the story. Then there's time for ohhing, ahhing and photo opportunities, and finally clean up. During January and March, folks made awesome houses, castles, cars, trucks and spaceships and only Mrs. Beck knows what April's theme will be. If you are over the age of five, come join in the fun and be sure to bring an adult with you if you are under the age of eight. Don't be shy if you're a teen or an adult; it's really cool to see what you make!



Terri Lewis and her son joined a roomful of kids and parents at our third LEGO Club meeting on March 6th.

Photo by Cedena McAvoy

## Summer Reading at the Edythe Dyer Library!

Make summer plans now to "Go Bananas at the Edythe Dyer Library." Our annual summer reading program begins with sign-up week, June 21 – 25. Participants must be signed up no later than July 9. Summer readers from preschoolers through grade 8 may choose to set a goal or take the 'read in bunches' challenge. Everyone who reaches their goal or completes their challenge will receive a free book. Our special programs will include monkeying around with Curious George, music by the Flannery Brothers and a magic show with Norman Ng. Details will be available at the Library mid-May. ■

## Don't Forget to Get Counted!

By Debbie Lozito

April 1, 2010, was Census Day! This year the Census Bureau included libraries all across the country in their outreach campaign. They sent us coloring books—one is pictured below; informational sheets explaining what the census is and why it is very important to be counted; and where you should be counted and why counting everyone is so important. Here's a good reason to be counted—\$400 billion dollars. That's the amount of federal money distributed annually to state, local and tribal governments based on census data.



We also acquired two really cool maps showing all kinds of demographic and population information for all fifty states. Stop by the library for a close up look at the maps and get a coloring book before they're gone.

We also have a great picture book about the Census. It's called Tricking the Tallyman and it explains in a funny way why everybody needs to be counted. Get online and go to [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov) for lots of cool information about the census. And remember—if you don't have Internet access come to the library and use ours. ■

## Join the American Library Association for a National Conversation on Privacy in the Digital Age

By: Debbie Lozito

As you surf the Internet, do you find yourself being careful about what you search for, what you post, or what kind of trail you leave in cyberspace? Do you self censor out of concern that what you post or where you click may come back to haunt you? Or do you click away happily unaware that your privacy is impacted when you use the Internet? According to a 2008 national survey, librarians are more likely than other people to self censor on the Internet; since I am a librarian chances are I self censorship more than you do. Librarians



Image courtesy of [www.privacyrevolution.org](http://www.privacyrevolution.org)

have long been at the forefront of efforts to preserve the right to read and receive information anonymously, a right that is at the heart of liberty in a democracy. Now librarians understand that the digital age allows for very little anonymity. "Perhaps the most powerful - but largely invisible - force shaping our digital media reality is the role of interactive advertising and marketing. Much of our online experience, from websites to search engines to social networks, is being shaped to better serve advertisers. Increasingly, individuals are being electronically 'shadowed' online, our actions and behaviors observed, collected, and analyzed so that we can be 'micro-targeted.'" ([www.privacyrevolution.org](http://www.privacyrevolution.org))

So what are we to do? First, be aware and decide how much privacy you are willing to give up for the convenience of Internet searching, purchasing and learning. Then take a look at [www.privacyrevolution.org](http://www.privacyrevolution.org) -use the library's public access computers for semi-anonymous searching. Finally accept the American Library Association's invitation into a national conversation about privacy rights in a digital age during "Choose Privacy Week" May 2 – 8, 2010. ■



## Spring BOOK SALE Scheduled

By Jane Jarvi

May 15, 2010, from 9:00 am to 2 pm, the Friends of the Library will hold its semi-annual book sale in the newly opened Friends Bookshop in the basement of the Edythe Dyer Library. In addition, we will have a raffle for items that will celebrate spring.

Because of the generosity of the patrons of the library, our shelves have numerous titles looking for new homes. All ages will find books of interest and the prices can't be beat. Several videos, CD's, and tapes have recently become available.

All funds raised will go toward expanding the availability of technology within the library – two identified needs are a digital camera (user friendly) and a large screen reader system for the visually impaired.

As you tackle your spring cleaning, remember the library for any books and audiovisual materials. They should be gently used and please, no encyclopedias or 'series' (i.e., Time-Life). We look forward to seeing you Saturday, May 15.

Due to location, the Bookshop is not handicapped accessible. ■



# The Recreation of It All

By Annie Gabbianelli O'Reilly

For many years Hampden's recreation programs were primarily summer-based with a few sport programs during the school year. Swimming lessons were held at the Papermill Rd. Recreation Area and the Best Western Whitehouse Inn pool before the Lura Hoit pool was built. There was fall soccer, winter basketball and spring tee ball. During the summer, there was a summer camp and road trips one day a week to beaches and state parks.

On July 1, 1998, the Town of Hampden hired its first full time director. Programs blossomed and ran throughout the whole year. January 1, 2000, a full time assistant director was hired and leadership was established in 2001, for the after school program, Kids Korner.

That was then...and now...

The town's Parks and Recreation department offers programs for children 3 to 103. That's right; there are even programs for seniors. These programs range from arts and crafts to most sports, cards and more. Plus they are geared for a wide range of participants. "We collaborate with a variety of travel groups and civic organizations that offer great programs to the community. For those programs we do not run, we try to be a source for information so that any citizen needing help knows we could either help or lead them in the right direction," says Director Kurt Mathies.

In 2005, the growth continued. Expanded and repaired recreation facility projects began. The volleyball/ skating area along with the playground was built in the summer of 2006, the town gazebo was moved and rebuilt in 2008, and in 2009, approximately 50 trees and shrubs were planted to form the Western Avenue Recreation Area located next to the Lura Hoit Pool. It was a busy time, says Mathies. "During that time, a trail system had been created to connect that area to the town office and to the Souadabscook Stream. The old hockey rink was removed in 2005, and the tennis courts and basketball courts were resurfaced in 2007 at the VFW Recreation Area."

The ice rink had a slow beginning but the two previous years, there were great weather conditions for skating. This year however, Mother Nature had other ideas, yet skaters did enjoy the sport and the spot before the early thaw.

Despite the growth over the years, Mathies has his eye on yet more growth for the department. "Our biggest need is a community center because the town has many recreational needs, but we are limited to the space that is available." There is a need for more trails and for connectivity of trails throughout the town and more parks. "We also need to rebuild and or revive the parks we have, and when the comprehensive plan is adopted, work will be done on a Recreation and open space plan," says Mathies. He recognizes the community effort in the success of today and the future. "I need to thank the many countless volunteers and the other great travel and civic groups who make up all the recreational offerings of the Town of Hampden, and also a thank you to SAD 22 for the use of its facilities," he goes on to say, "the Hampden Recreation Department strives to provide the best possible recreational experience for people of all ages in Hampden and its surrounding communities," which is what makes him proud to be a part of this department and community.



Photo by Jill McLaughlin



Photo by Jill McLaughlin



Photo by Sheila Albert

## Meet the Staff

### Kurt Mathies, Recreation Director

Originally from Connecticut, Kurt has called Hampden home for the past ten years. His roots in this area started with his great grandfather E.G. Reed, whom Reeds Brook was named for.

Kurt graduated from Nokomis Regional High in 1991 and went on to the University of Maine at Presque Isle to study Physical Education. He joined the Hampden Recreation Department in November 1997 and moved into the position of assistant director of Kids Korner. Four years later Kurt became interim Recreation Director which was made permanent in March 2002.

In 2007, Kurt was elected to be part of the Maine Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance executive board, where he served as Vice President and a representative for Recreation. Coaching high school sports (soccer, track and field, basketball and baseball) for 15 years is also on Kurt's list of activities. He enjoys being a resident of Hampden with his wife Julia and sons Cameron and Jason.

### Shelley (Smith) Abbott, Assistant Recreation Director

No stranger to these parts, Shelley grew up on Main Road South and Back Winterport Road. She received a B.S. degree in Recreation Management from the University of Maine at Machias in December 1999 and began work in this field with the Town of Hampden in May 2002 as the Assistant Recreation Director. This was just the beginning of Shelley's dedication to the job. She became certified as a Parks and Recreation Professional in April 2004, is active in the state association for parks and recreation (MRPA), and was awarded the Young Professional Award for MRPA in May 2008. This year Shelley moved "around the corner" into Hampden where she lives with her husband, William, and five-year-old daughter, Marissa. Let's not forget her other child, four-year-old Shih Tzu, Libby.

### Jill McLaughlin, Youth Program Director

Jill grew up in Lincoln, Maine and graduated from the University of Maine at Machias with a B.S. in Recreation Management. While at UMM, she played on the varsity basketball and volleyball teams and was also a student athletic trainer. After graduating, Jill stayed for two years as the Assistant Women's basketball coach for UMM. Before coming to the Hampden Recreation Department six years ago, Jill worked at Washington Academy in the Special Education department and also coached volleyball, basketball and softball for the school. Aside from handling the before- and after-school programs and summer camps, she started a youth volleyball league, tween summer camp, Polar Express day, February Break outings, and starting this year, a new travel camp. ■

# The BEAR is loose... and coming to your business

*By Dean Bennett*

The Community and Economic Development Department, in collaboration with the Hampden Business Association and with the support of the Hampden Town Council has initiated the creation of a Business Expansion And Retention Program (BEAR).

The program will consist of interviews with existing businesses to better understand issues relating to their potential for expansion, in support of their retention, and to identify obstacles to their continued prosperity. Once this information is collected and evaluated by the firm of Renaissance Planning Associates, a report will be drafted and presented to the participating businesses and community leaders in order to guide a plan of action to address these issues.

Community and Economic Development Director Dean Bennett, who initiated the program, states that “the more we know about the day to day challenges and realities facing our local businesses, the more effective we can be in working with them to overcome and address the obstacles.”

A healthy, thriving and active business community is the best tool for attracting development that is welcomed and right for Hampden. Investing in the expansion and retention of established local businesses is a priority of the Community and Economic Development Department as the community emerges from these tough economic times.

Bill Najpauer and Sarah Flaks of Renaissance Planning Associates will be literally knocking on business doors, introducing themselves and the program, and asking to schedule a time when they can sit down and explore issues that are vital to the growth and retention of businesses in Hampden.

Any questions on the program or its purpose and benefits, should be directed to the Director of Community and Economic Development, Dean Bennett @ 862-3034. ■

TOWN OF HAMPDEN  
106 WESTERN AVENUE  
HAMPDEN, ME 04444

PERMIT NO. 201

POSTAL PATRON  
HAMPDEN, ME 04444